

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for conveying sheets through a printing machine having a print head, the device comprising:

a plurality of deflection rollers and a conveyor belt disposed to run over said deflection rollers, said conveyor belt being configured to receive individual sheets one after another;

three mutually adjacent conveying segments defining a conveying path for the sheets, said conveying segments including a central conveying segment opposite the print head;

at least one guide element assigned to each one of said conveying segments; ~~and~~

an apparatus for adjusting a height of a central one of said guide element assigned to said central conveying segment opposite the print head in accordance with a thickness of the sheets, for setting a spacing distance between a surface of a sheet to be printed and the print head; and

a coupling between said guide element assigned to said central conveying segment and an adjacent said guide element assigned to an adjacent said conveying segment such that a height adjustment of said central guide element adjusts the height of said adjacent guide element.

Claim 2 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein said guide element opposite the print head forms a unitary structure in combination with a suction box.

Claim 3 (original): The device according to claim 1, which comprises three suction boxes each disposed at a respective one of said three conveying segments, said suction boxes having guide elements for said conveyor belt, and wherein a central said suction box is adjustable in a direction of the print head and is connected to the adjacent said suction boxes in an articulated manner.

Claim 4 (original): The device according to claim 3, wherein said adjacent suction boxes are pivotally mounted.

Claim 5 (original): The device according to claim 4, wherein said adjacent suction boxes are articulated about respective pivot axes coaxially aligned in each case with a rotational axis of a respective said deflection roller.

Claim 6 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus for adjusting said guide element opposite the print head includes a lever mechanism.

Claim 7 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus for adjusting said guide element opposite the print head includes rollers for vertically guiding said guide element.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A sheet-conveying assembly in a printing machine, the device comprising:

a holding device and a head mounted to said holding device;

a plurality of deflection rollers and a conveyor belt disposed to run over said deflection rollers, said conveyor belt being configured to receive individual sheets one after another;

three mutually adjacent conveying segments defining a conveying path for the sheets, said conveying segments including a central conveying segment opposite said head;

a central guide element disposed at said central conveying segment; and

an apparatus for adjusting a spacing distance between said central guide element and said head in accordance with a thickness of the sheets, for setting a distance between a surface of the sheet and said head; and

a coupling between said central guide element assigned to said central conveying segment and an adjacent said guide element assigned to an adjacent said conveying segment such that a height adjustment of said central guide element adjusts the height of said adjacent guide element.

Claim 9 (original): The assembly according to claim 8, wherein said head is a print head or an inspection head in the printing machine.

Claim 10 (new): A device for conveying sheets through a printing machine having a print head, the device comprising:

a plurality of deflection rollers and a conveyor belt disposed to run over said deflection rollers, said conveyor belt being configured to receive individual sheets one after another;

three mutually adjacent conveying segments defining a conveying path for the sheets, said conveying segments including a central conveying segment opposite the print head;

three suction boxes each disposed at a respective one of said three conveying segments, said suction boxes having guide elements for said conveyor belt;

an apparatus for adjusting a height of a central said suction box in a direction of the print head and said guide element assigned to said central conveying segment opposite the print head in accordance with a thickness of the sheets, for setting a spacing distance between a surface of a sheet to be printed and the print head, said central suction box being connected to the adjacent said suction boxes in an articulated manner, said adjacent suction boxes being pivotally mounted and articulated about respective pivot axes coaxially aligned in each case with a rotational axis of a respective said deflection roller.

Claim 11 (new): The device according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus for adjusting said guide element opposite the print head includes a lever mechanism.

Claim 12 (new): The device according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus for adjusting said guide element opposite the print head includes rollers for vertically guiding said guide element.